



# **Revising DOE's Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program**

**U.S Environmental Protection Agency  
5<sup>th</sup> State and Local Climate Change Partners  
Program**

**November 20-22, 2002**



## **President's Climate Change Initiative – February 14, 2002**

- Set GHG Intensity Goal (18% improvement in 2012):
  - Directed improvements in voluntary GHG registry;
  - Challenged businesses to take action;
  - Supported tax incentives for clean energy.



## GHG Registry Improvements

- Directed the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, **to propose improvements to the current voluntary emissions reduction registration program** under section 1605(b) of the 1992 Energy Policy Act within 120 days. These improvements will **enhance measurement accuracy, reliability, and verifiability**, working with and taking into account emerging domestic and international approaches.
- Directed the Secretary of Energy to recommend reforms to **ensure that businesses and individuals that register reductions are not penalized under a future climate policy and to give transferable credits** to companies that can show real emissions reductions.
- Directed the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy, to **develop accounting rules and guidelines for crediting sequestration projects**, taking into account emerging domestic and international approaches.



## **What is the Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Registry?**

- **Created by Energy Policy Act of 1992**
- **Managed by EIA**
- **Records results of voluntary measures to reduce, avoid, or sequester greenhouse gas emission**
- **During 2000, total of 222 U.S. companies and other organizations filed reports**
- **Reporting guidelines are flexible, designed to encourage participation**



# **Process for Improving Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Reporting**

- **Set Goal:**
  - **Revised Guidelines in place by January, 2004.**
- **Achieving Goal:**
  - **Set up interagency coordination process (CEQ; EPA; USDA; DOC)**
  - **Created Website**  
**(<http://www.pi.energy.gov/enhancingGHGregistry>).**
  - **Meet with stakeholders**
  - **Issued Notice of Inquiry**
  - **Sent President 10 recommendations for improvements**
  - **Hosting 4 public workshops.**
  - **Public review of proposed guidelines.**



## **Revising 1605(b): Workshops**

- **4 Regional “General” Workshops:**
  - **Cover major 1605(b) issues**
  - **DC: November 18-19**
  - **Chicago: December 5-6**
  - **San Francisco: December 9-10**
  - **Houston: December 12-13**
- **Agricultural/Forestry meetings**
  - **USDA lead**
- **Meet with State-level Registries**



# **Emissions Reporting: Improving Accuracy, Reliability, and Verifiability**

**Organizational and Geographic Boundaries**

**Operational Boundaries and Related Issues**

**Measurement and Accounting Methods**



# **Emissions Reduction: Characterizing and Measuring**

**Characteristics of  
credible reductions**

**Tracking and transferring  
reductions**





# **Verifying Emissions and Reductions**

**Types and Frequency  
of Verification**

**Approving / Certifying  
Verifiers**

**Verification Methods**

**Confidentiality  
Issues**



## **Managing the Registry**

**Certifying real  
reductions**

**Confidentiality  
Issues**

**Tracking and  
transferring  
reductions**

**Prior Year Reports**